The Army's Logistic System plays a crucial role in the success and efficiency of any organisation, whether it is a military force or a commercial entity. This essay compares The Army's Logistic System with those of major retailers such as Walmart, Target, and Amazon. Analysing and evaluating critical points from each case study will present a comprehensive understanding of the similarities and differences between these systems.

The essay will begin with an introduction to logistics and its significance in the respective domains, followed by a detailed examination of the army's logistics system and the chosen retailers' logistics systems. Key comparison areas will include supply chain management, inventory control, transportation, and technology adoption. The essay's body will thoroughly explore each aspect, supported by relevant examples and data. The conclusion will summarise the main findings and provide insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the army's logistic system compared to those of the selected retailers.

**Introduction to The Army's Logistic System**

Logistics is the process of planning, implementing, and controlling the efficient flow and storage of goods, services, and related information from the point of origin to the end of consumption. It encompasses various activities such as procurement, transportation, warehousing, inventory management, and customer service. Effective logistics systems are essential for organisations to optimise operations, reduce costs, and enhance customer satisfaction. This essay will compare the army's logistic plans, designed to support military operations, with the logistic systems of Walmart, Target, and Amazon, three significant retailers known for their efficient supply chain management.

**Army Logistic System:**



The army operates in a unique environment with high stakes, and the consequences of logistical failures can be severe. The army's logistic system primarily supports military operations by ensuring the timely and accurate delivery of personnel, equipment, and supplies to the battlefield. It involves complex processes and relies on a hierarchical structure to manage the flow of resources.

Supply chain management is a critical component of the army's logistic system. It involves coordinating activities such as procurement, production, and distribution to ensure the availability of necessary resources. The military maintains a vast network of suppliers and depots strategically located to support various units and theatres of operation. The procurement process is tightly regulated and involves rigorous quality control measures to ensure the reliability and effectiveness of the equipment and supplies procured.

Inventory control is another crucial aspect of the army's logistic system. Due to the dynamic nature of military operations, accurate forecasting and demand planning have become even more challenging. The army utilises advanced inventory management techniques, including just-in-time (JIT) and lean principles, to minimise excess inventory while maintaining operational readiness. Advanced technologies, such as radio frequency identification (RFID) tags and barcode scanning, enable real-time visibility and inventory tracking across the supply chain.

Transportation is a vital link in the army's logistic system, as it facilitates the movement of personnel, equipment, and supplies. The military utilises various modes of transportation, including air, land, and sea, depending on the operational requirements. The ability to rapidly deploy and sustain forces in different locations is critical for military success. The army employs specialised transportation units and leverages partnerships with commercial carriers to ensure efficient and reliable transportation.

Technology adoption is an area where the army has made significant strides in recent years. Integrating information technology systems has revolutionised logistics operations, improving planning, visibility, and decision-making. The military utilises advanced software applications for demand forecasting, route optimisation, and inventory management. Additionally, technologies like uncrewed aerial vehicles (UAVs) and autonomous vehicles are being explored to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of logistics operations.

Comparison with Retailers' Logistic Systems:

Walmart, Target, and Amazon are renowned for their efficient supply chain management and logistics capabilities. These companies operate in highly competitive markets where customer expectations for fast and reliable delivery are paramount. Their logistic systems are designed to optimise inventory management, reduce costs, and provide seamless customer experiences.

Retailers employ sophisticated forecasting and demand planning techniques for supply chain management to ensure optimal inventory levels. They maintain extensive supplier networks and negotiate favourable terms to secure the best prices and timely delivery of goods. Walmart, for example, pioneered the concept of cross-docking, which minimises the need for storage by unloading products from inbound trucks and loading them directly onto outbound trucks.

Inventory control is a critical area where retailers excel. They employ advanced inventory management systems that leverage data analytics and real-time monitoring to optimise stock levels. Just like the army, they utilise RFID tags and barcode scanning for accurate tracking and visibility of inventory. The retailers also emphasise efficient replenishment processes, such as vendor-managed inventory (VMI) and automatic replenishment systems, to ensure products are always available to meet customer demand.

Transportation is critical to retailers' logistic systems, as timely and cost-effective delivery is crucial to their business models. They employ a combination of in-house fleets, third-party carriers, and strategic partnerships to optimise transportation operations. Moreover, they leverage technology to track shipments, optimise routes, and provide customers real-time delivery updates.

Technology adoption is a significant area where retailers have been at the forefront. They have invested heavily in state-of-the-art IT systems and automation technologies to streamline logistics operations. Walmart, for instance, utilises an advanced technique called Retail Link, which integrates point-of-sale data, inventory levels, and supplier information to optimise supply chain activities. Amazon has pioneered robotics in its warehouses, enabling faster order processing and fulfilment.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, comparing the army's logistic system with major retailers like Walmart, Target, and Amazon reveals similarities and differences. While the army's logistic system is tailored to support military operations and faces unique challenges, the retailers' logistics focus on meeting customer demands in highly competitive markets. However, common themes emerge, such as the importance of supply chain management, inventory control, transportation, and technology adoption in achieving efficiency and effectiveness.

Both the army and the retailers employ advanced technologies and techniques to optimise their logistics operations. RFID tags, barcode scanning, advanced inventory management systems, and transportation optimisation tools are used by both parties. However, the retailers' logistic systems often exhibit greater agility and responsiveness due to the competitive nature of their business.

Overall, the army's logistic system excels in supporting complex military operations, ensuring the availability of resources in challenging environments. On the other hand, the retailers' logistic systems meet customer expectations for fast and reliable delivery. By understanding the strengths and weaknesses of each design, organisations can learn valuable lessons and adopt best practices to enhance their logistics operations.

https://youtu.be/PEWYEQXVag4

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